

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-09089-6 - Ideology, Power and Prehistory  
Edited by Daniel Miller and Christopher Tilley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

## NEW DIRECTIONS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

*Editors*

Richard Bradley  
*Reader in Archaeology, University of Reading*

Timothy Earle  
*Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of California,  
Los Angeles*

Ian Hodder  
*Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Cambridge*

Glynn Isaac  
*Professor of Anthropology, Harvard University,  
Cambridge, Massachusetts*

Colin Renfrew  
*Disney Professor of Archaeology, University of Cambridge*

Jeremy Sabloff  
*Professor of Anthropology, University of New Mexico*

Andrew Sherratt  
*Assistant Keeper, Department of Antiquities, Ashmolean  
Museum, Oxford*

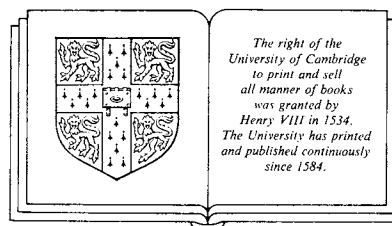
Martin Wobst  
*Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of  
Massachusetts, Amherst*

**IDEOLOGY,  
POWER  
AND PREHISTORY**

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-09089-6 - Ideology, Power and Prehistory  
Edited by Daniel Miller and Christopher Tilley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

# IDEOLOGY, POWER AND PREHISTORY

EDITED BY DANIEL MILLER  
AND  
CHRISTOPHER TILLEY



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
CAMBRIDGE  
LONDON NEW YORK NEW ROCHELLE  
MELBOURNE SYDNEY

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-09089-6 - Ideology, Power and Prehistory  
Edited by Daniel Miller and Christopher Tilley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521255264](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521255264)

© Cambridge University Press 1984

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception  
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,  
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written  
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1984  
This digitally printed version 2008

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 83-15121*

ISBN 978-0-521-25526-4 hardback  
ISBN 978-0-521-09089-6 paperback

## CONTENTS

*To my mother (C.T.)*  
*To my father (D.M.)*

*List of contributors vi Preface vii*

### **Part one**

#### **Theoretical perspectives 1**

- 1 Ideology, power and prehistory: An introduction  
*Daniel Miller and Christopher Tilley 1*

### **Part two**

#### **Ideology and Power in the Present and Historical Past 17**

- 2 Endo ceramics and power strategies  
*Alice Welbourn 17*
- 3 Interpreting ideology in historical archaeology: The  
 William Paca Garden in Annapolis, Maryland  
*Mark Leone 25*
- 4 Modernism and suburbia as material ideology  
*Daniel Miller 37*

### **Part three**

#### **Ideology and Power in Prehistory 51**

- 5 Burials, houses, women and men in the European Neolithic  
*Ian Hodder 51*
- 6 Economic and ideological change: Cyclical growth in the  
 pre-state societies of Jutland  
*Michael Parker Pearson 69*
- 7 Ritual and prestige in the prehistory of Wessex c. 2,200–  
 1,400 BC: A new dimension to the archaeological evidence  
*Mary Braithwaite 93*
- 8 Ideology and the legitimization of power in the Middle  
 Neolithic of Southern Sweden  
*Christopher Tilley 111*

**Part four****Conclusions 147**

- 9 Ideology, power, material culture and long-term change  
*Daniel Miller and Christopher Tilley 147*  
*Index 153*

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Mary Braithwaite, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge.

Ian Hodder, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge.

Mark Leone, Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland.

Daniel Miller, Department of Anthropology, University College, London.

Michael Parker Pearson, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge.

Christopher Tilley, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge.

Alice Welbourn, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge.

## PREFACE

This volume arises out of a symposium held at the third Theoretical Archaeology Group conference, Reading, U.K. in December 1981. Most of the papers are, however, either extensively revised or use quite different examples from the original presentations. All but one of the contributors to this volume also wrote papers for an earlier publication in this series, *Symbolic and Structural Archaeology* (Hodder, Ed. 1982). The ideas that form the focus of this volume were one of a number to be tentatively explored there.

A consideration of ideology and power means that we are no longer able simply to 'read off' the nature of past societies from material evidence. Instead the archaeological record must be understood as actively mediated and manipulated as part of the social strategies of the individuals and groups that constituted a past society. Material culture can be used to express interests and ideas which may very well be contradictory. In order to understand ideology and power successfully a historical, particularist and contextual approach to the evidence is fundamental. This allows us to tackle both the variability and the specificity of

archaeological data and contemporary material culture. It makes the past irreducibly the creation of sentient social actors and allows us to come both to a better understanding of it and of ourselves.

We recognise that this is only one of a number of attempts, at present being conducted, which seek to reorientate the nature of archaeological theory and practice. We are grateful for any interest and criticisms that have been given to us in the past from people working with similar or very different problems. In particular we should like to thank other members of the Cambridge Seminar Group who have not contributed papers here, and all those who at the conferences, in seminars and in coffee rooms have stimulated the development of these ideas. Our warmest personal thanks must go to those people who worked so hard to contribute to the book and were patient enough to put up with us as editors.

April 1983

Daniel Miller and Christopher Tilley